

# "Sobel's Flats" Under Scrutiny In Vice Probe

## Many of His Tenants Convicted for Violating Tenement House Law

### Owner Made Rich

#### Judge Wadhams Urges Prosecution for Failure to Clean Up Premises

Upper West Side flats, from which a police captain testified, many women have been convicted for violating the tenement house law, were considered at yesterday's session of the John Doe inquiry into vice conditions in New York. After Assistant District Attorney James E. Smith had introduced evidence showing there are from 300 to 400 of these flats controlled by Leon Sobel, the inquiry was adjourned to this afternoon.

The Sobel flats, so called, are all in the territory of the West 100th Street police station, of which Captain John H. Boyle has been in command for several years. Captain Boyle produced records yesterday showing that Sobel, who is reputed to have become a millionaire through the leasing of furnished flats, had been warned of many convictions of his tenants.

Many women convicted from houses in 100th Street, though there were several tenants of Manhattan Avenue property of Sobel, including the building No. 215, where he makes his headquarters, were not mentioned. A few were for gaming, with the majority women violators of the tenement house law.

Mr. Smith declared he proposed to have the owners and agents of these properties had been notified of existing conditions, and by failing to clean their premises had become liable to prosecution under the tenement house law. Of the tenants in these places, Smith said that from 40 to 50 per cent were law-breakers.

Mr. Smith's testimony covered the period from June 1, 1916, to January 31 of this year, all of the places affected being in Manhattan Avenue, near 100th Street; in 100th Street, near Central Park West; in 101st Street, near 100th Street; and in 101st Street, near 100th Street.

Notice Served on Sobel Nathan Weinberg, a clerk employed by Sobel, said his employer controlled between 300 and 400 apartments, most of them furnished. He recalled notice of convictions being served on Sobel. Barnett Lamm and Louis Stern, arrested after the first John Doe session on a warrant charging grand larceny by means of a crooked card game from Simon Kaiser, were arraigned and held in \$2,500 for the grand jury. Both furnished bail.

# Reynolds Pleads Limitation Statute

Council for the four defendants indicted just before election, charged with conspiring to defraud the city by the sale of Rockaway Park to the municipality in 1912, argued yesterday before Justice Goff in the criminal court of the Supreme Court for a dismissal of the indictments on the ground that the crimes alleged were barred by the statute of limitations. John B. Stanchfield, representative of Senator William H. Reynolds, made the principal argument.

Assistant District Attorneys Black and Johnston argued that in the case of Reynolds, the statute had been absent from the jurisdiction of the court for a period greater than the amount of time that elapsed between the expiration of the five-year period allowed for bringing indictments and the actual date of the indictments. Mr. Stanchfield introduced affidavits from Reynolds' associates in business controverting this allegation.

Justice Goff continued the trial until nearly 6 o'clock and ordered that the room be kept in darkness except for a single light on the stenographer's stand. Briefs will be filed on Saturday.

# Italian and British Fliers Down 13 Planes

No Infantry Actions Reported—Artillery Fire Desultory

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Fighting activity on the Italian front in the last two days has been principally in the air, with no infantry actions being reported by either side to-day, although artillery duels of a desultory nature were still maintained.

Yesterday Italian fliers brought down five machines, while the British air force accounted for eight more, according to the Rome War Office statement.

Before dawn this morning the Austrians again attacked Padua, dropping bombs in the center of the city and inflicting some damage to buildings and wounding a few civilians, the report says. Last night Italian airships bombarded military transports on the Comeliano-Casarsa railway line, behind the enemy's front.

New Semi-Tailored Wash Blouses, \$3.00 Splendid Value! Of superior white dimity, finely made. As pictured. Another, with turnover cuffs. A third of fine rib pique, fastens with tiny black buttons.

ALL CARS TRANSFER TO Bloomingdale 50th to 60th St., Lexington to 3d Ave.

# Germans Raid French Front in Flanders

## Artillery Fighting Pronounced in Sector North of Chemin-des-Dames

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Raiding operations in Flanders and at many points on the French front are reported in today's official communiques. Southeast of Beaumont, on the front of the German Crown Prince, Baden storming troops penetrated far into the French positions, reports, inflicting heavy losses and returning to their lines with thirty-three prisoners and several machine guns.

Dames of the famous Chemin-des-Dames, the Germans attacked twice near Corbeny, but were repelled both times, according to the Paris communiques. Artillery fighting in this sector was pronounced, the official statements agree. In the Argonne the French troops carried out a successful raid at La Meuse. On the heights of the Meuse and north and south of the St. Mihiel salient fighting activity was revived, Berlin says.

In Flanders the British delivered a successful blow against the enemy southwest of Arras, and along the Ypres-Staden railway, killing many Germans and taking machine guns and prisoners.

French aviators on Sunday brought down thirteen enemy machines in combat, bringing the Allies' total for Sunday and Monday to twenty-six. The Germans claim only eighteen victims in the same two-day period.

# Germans Now Using 4 Types of U-Boats

The Admiralty returns indicate that the submarine menace continues, and if not checked will exert its influence on all our war activities," says Archibald Hurd, naval correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph," London. He says the Germans are using four types of submarines. There is first the cruiser class, big ships with a high speed, a great radius of action, a heavy armament, including 8-inch guns, a shell of 90 pounds, as well as a large number of torpedoes, which can be discharged while the vessel is still under the water. The second type is a patrol submarine—travels at a speed of thirty to forty knots an hour for a distance ranging up to 10,000 yards, and has an explosive charge sufficient to tear away the whole stern of a ship or rip open her boiler room.

Secondly come the U-boats proper, smaller craft of about 900 tons, also armed with guns and torpedoes, and capable of operating in the Atlantic or Channel; thirdly, the mine laying submarines are of smaller displacement, carry little vessels, and fourthly, there are the submarines which are equipped for cutting cables.

When these facts are considered, he says, it will be understood that the navy is up against a problem of great difficulty, if only because these terrible vessels when travelling on the surface are about twice as swift as the average tramp steamer, and that in any event they are capable of great maneuverability, and that in any case, according to the type, they can disappear beneath the surface of the sea.

# Fewer Jews Among the Bolsheviks Now

The influence of the Bolsheviks in the Russian government has been increasing, the number of Jews in its ranks has been decreasing, according to reports received by the "Avanti," the Italian Socialist organ, of Turin. The percentage of Jews in the more moderate parties of Russia is now higher than the Bolshevik party.

"The foreign affairs commission of the Anglo-Jewish Association," writes the "Avanti," "has received information and convincing figures in regard to the Jewish question in connection with the extremist parties of Russia. It is pointed out that with the growth of the influence of the Bolsheviks the number of Jews among them has been continually decreasing. This is by no means due to dislike for the Jews, among sixty-six Bolsheviks who have been elected to the preliminary Parliament only five or six are Jews, while among fifty delegates of the moderate Menshevik party there are about twenty-eight Jews."

"The Bolsheviks are very proud of the ethnographic purity (this is how they call it) of their Maximilian and have complete faith in the fact that those sections where the Bolsheviks are predominant native Russians are the dominating element, and that the Maximilian and all those parties that are ready for compromises are strong in districts where the population is mixed."

# Britain Solving Disabled Soldier Problem

By way of solving the disabled soldier and sailor problem, Great Britain has gone to great lengths in studying and devising occupations suited to those whom the war has treated somewhat harshly. One instance of this is to be found in the twelfth course at the Northampton Polytechnic Institute for giving a preliminary training to disabled soldiers and sailors as sub-station attendants, which has just been completed. A number of students who finished the course are now awaiting vacancies.—Scientific American.

# Mexico Concedes Oil Docks

The Texas Company has been granted permission to construct certain wharves and docks on the banks of the Panuco River, in Mexico, for the handling of oil, and for which it is required to pay the equivalent of \$37,500 gold per month rental to the government for a period of eight years.—Mexican News Bulletin.

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# Hylan Has Narrow Escape Inspecting Traffic in Harlem

Auto Just Misses Mayor at 125th St. Corner, With No Officer on Post

Safety Zones Soon

Executive Will Vote Against New 'Bus Franchise and Study Public Ownership

Mayor Hylan went to Harlem yesterday to inspect traffic conditions, and had a close call himself from being run down by an automobile. The Mayor had just alighted from his car on 125th Street near Third Avenue when an automobile whizzed by, almost grazing him. Turning to Grover Whalen, his secretary, and Detective Sergeant O'Hara, his bodyguard, who accompanied him, he said:

"That was a narrow escape," and they agreed with him.

The Mayor then looked around for a traffic officer supposed to be at the corner, but none was in sight. Detective O'Hara motioned to a patrolman standing on the northeast corner of 125th Street, and the Mayor asked him where the traffic officer was.

"He's having his lunch," the patrolman replied.

"Is there no one to relieve him?" the Mayor inquired.

"No," said the patrolman.

Men Should Be Relieved "It seems to me," said the Mayor, "that when a man leaves his post another should relieve him, and I am going to see that there is a man regulating traffic at this and other points at all times. Most of these accidents occur when the traffic policemen leave their posts, and there should be a man on post all the time."

The Mayor made the trip to Harlem at the request of members of the Board of Commerce, who want certain British defense lines, which they say have been used by the Board of Commerce on the ground of numerous accidents. At the request of the board, who were in the party that if they would place the matter before Police Commissioner Knight he would communicate with him and see that they got the safety zones.

Will Attend Harlem Dinner While they had the Mayor with them the members of the board improved the opportunity to discuss other matters with him. They told him of their interest in the application of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company for a franchise to operate buses in Harlem, and advised the Mayor of the fact that he would vote in favor of a continuance of the present franchise of the company, which operates the Fifth Avenue buses, until he had considered more fully the question of municipal ownership.

Prior to the inspection tour the Mayor called at the office of the Board of Commerce, where he was received by a committee headed by Edward von Kuehn. The Mayor accepted an invitation to attend the annual dinner of the board in March.

# The Weather Report

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The cold weather continues in Atlantic Coast districts north of the Carolinas. In the great interior valleys it is much warmer, and the temperature tonight was above the normal average in the Mississippi and Missouri valleys and the Rocky Mountain region. Snow has fallen in New England, also in Western Washington and Oregon. Snow is probable today and tomorrow in the upper lake region, with heavy snow in the east and south. Temperature and snow or rain in the lower lake region.

It will be warmer Wednesday in the Ohio Valley and the lake region and the temperature will rise slowly Wednesday and Thursday in Atlantic Coast districts north of the Carolinas. The temperature in the last named region will reach and pass above the freezing point Tuesday.

Forecasts for Special Localities.—Eastern New York.—Fair and warmer to-day; partly cloudy and warmer to-morrow; probably snow in northern portion.

Southern New England.—Fair to-day and to-morrow; clearing to-day; rain to-morrow.

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows temperatures during the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding days of last year:

1918, 1917.		1917, 1916.	
6 a. m.	34	31	29
9 a. m.	34	31	29
12 m.	34	31	29
3 p. m.	34	31	29
6 p. m.	34	31	29
9 p. m.	34	31	29
12 m.	34	31	29
Highest temperature yesterday, 4 degrees above last year.		Highest temperature yesterday, 4 degrees above last year.	
Average for same date last year, 21.		Average for same date last year, 21.	

Barometer Readings  
8 a. m. 30.02 1 p. m. 30.00 4 p. m. 29.98 7 p. m. 29.96

Local Official Forecast.—Fair and warmer to-day; probably cloudy and warmer to-morrow; gentle south wind.

# German Hopes Now Highest Since 1914, Says 'London Post'

Victories in Italy and Russian Peace Prospects Buoy Soldiers

Great Drive Preparing

With Stimulated Illusions the Peasant Fighters Go Gladly to Death

The New York Tribune Foreign Press Bureau

German soldiers on the Western front have been greatly buoyed up by the victories in Italy and the prospects of peace with Russia, according to competent observers who come into contact with prisoners and are able to form conclusions as to the spirit of the German army by conversation with them. The following article is from the correspondent at the British front of "The Morning Post," of London.

An especially notable feature of this article is that the evacuation of towns behind the German lines is not now, as heretofore, taken as an evidence of preparations for retreat, but for an offensive. "The Post's" correspondent says:

"While German statesmen talk largely of a desire for peace, the German army on the Western front continues its preparations for a new campaign. Peace undoubtedly is desired as earnestly by the war-weary soldiers of the Kaiser as by their hungry relatives at home, but the army is not allowing them to sit idly in the invaded territory while the diplomats negotiate at Brest-Litovsk. Despite the rigorous weather there is constant activity on an unbroken scale behind the German lines. It may not prefigure a tremendous blow against the Allied forces, but there is no denying the possibility of such a bid for peace if other methods of securing that desirable condition should fail in the near future. The troops in front are undergoing a severe winter training. Model trenches, which may or may not duplicate certain British defenses, are being dug out on aerial photographs, are used for practicing attacks, and at all recruit depots and instructional schools 'combed-out' drafts are being industriously drilled into fitness."

Thousands of Civilians Evicted "The summary eviction of thousands of civilians from their homes is another indication of the new offensive policy. Towns which retained their normal civilian population during three years and a half of war are being cleared for occupation by troops. The wretched inhabitants have been bundled out into the biting cold with what few possessions they can carry and have been reduced to other centers, already overcrowded, many miles from the front. Prisoners have told of seeing gangs of dispossessed civilians recently billeted in certain Northern towns. The area thus cleared is of considerable size. Other communities are under notice to leave their homes. There is no attempt to keep these evictions secret. German troops are encouraged to believe that they are undertaking a great offensive early in the spring, and it is common talk among the soldiers in the cantenments and trenches that this wholesale almost extermination of the civilian population is intended to provide quarters for masses of fresh troops from Russia."

The German Emperor said in one of his recent will speeches to the Bavarian Crown Prince's men that he intended to take Calais. Strange as it may seem, this boast appears to have been received with a certain amount of credulity. The German soldier just now is in good spirits. I said several weeks ago that his morale was as high as during the concluding operations on the Somme—a marked rise from the condition of despair which prevailed early last summer. Now I am inclined to think that it has since risen still higher.

An informant who has dealt with German prisoners during the greater part of the war expressed to me his belief that, taken as a whole, the German troops on this front are today more hopeful than they have been at any time since the first six months of the war. If called upon to make another great sacrifice they will undoubtedly respond with alacrity.

# Again Look for Victory

"Their leaders are again telling them that the war will be decided by victory in the field. They believe again in the defeat of the prisoners—that a little more hammering will be sufficient to make Britain ask for peace, and that the German situation is so desperate that at most will be sufficient to insure the organization of a peace conference. They are not talking, as they did a few months back, of 'peace by negotiation.' The German soldier now believes that his leaders will be able to enforce demands which he had previously regarded as impossible. He thinks that England is starving and on the verge of revolution. He is told that the same conditions prevail there which led to the collapse of Russia."

# Mexico Begins Irrigation

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Teachers Here and in England Should Be in Closer Relation, Says Ambassador

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"The largest and most important political problem of the post-war period," said Ambassador Page, "will be the future relationship of England and the United States. No task in modern history has been of such importance to the world at large. The relations between the two countries have been coming toward a more perfect understanding for a long period, in no small measure owing to the liberalizing forces at work among both peoples. But the terrible catastrophe of war has brought about in a rapid and dramatic manner that which surely yet more slowly coming without it."

"The relations between England and America have historic origin, followed by a historic course of development, and there is no other way of understanding them than through a study of their history. American scholars can render no higher service at the present time than in bringing their scholarship to bear upon matters which stand toward promotion of a perfect understanding between the two countries."

"Teachers in England and America should be brought into closer union. Travel across the Atlantic after the war will have to be placed within the means of all as a part of reconstruction. Not only the rich, but any individual who so desires, should be enabled to travel with ease and comfort between the United States and England. Teachers in England will then fall into the habit of spending their holidays in America. Their fellow teachers there will be delighted to welcome them, to teach them and in turn to learn from them. An American is ever inquisitive.

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There is renewed hope in the submarine campaign. "The illusions undoubtedly have been stimulated and encouraged him. He is well fed and clothed, and is buoyed up by the promises of an early and glorious peace. That is why he hears boastful front line garrisons hidden in the snow; why drunken Bavarians bang at midnight and call to the British soldiers, 'Come over, Tommy, and have a drink. The war will soon be over; why he works during the long winter nights building new blockhouses and running pits and shanties still more villages in new belts of wire.

Victory Phantom Leads to Ruin "German diplomats may talk of peace, but the German soldier is working as though the moves the war will last another ten years. He blows out new shelters in the frozen ground and weaves fresh labyrinths of wire in the mist at noon, laboring steadily among farms and cottages—one of many black specks moving restlessly on a field of dazzling white. We can see him in his moments of relaxation, when he throws snowballs instead of bombs, and even slides with apparent zest down a steep bank of snow on a bit of the plowed soil. We see him, too, when he tries to raid us, a brave but impotent moonlight, and is left hanging limp on the fence wire. He is an active enemy in this frigid weather, and for the moment a hopeful one. The phantom of victory is again luring him along the road to ruin."

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# A Colored Congressman

The ratio of Congressional representation in the United States is one Representative to every 211,877 inhabitants. American negroes, under any just system of proportional representation, ought to have had the Sixty-fifth Congress at least fifty-six Representatives to defend the country not only against alien enemies, but against the Bourbon South. We have not a single Congressman, thanks to oligarchy and mob violence in the South and gerrymandering in the North. With the recent migration, however, careful and unselfish political leadership can soon send black men to Congress from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. With live Representatives from such states we could then attack the rotten democracies in border states, like Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri, and finally the Solid South. Here lies our line of march, comrades! To the work!—Crisis.

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